

## Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
----- 044038

O 311040Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4419

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

USSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

S E C R E T SAIGON 3857

EXDIS - MIL ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

NOFORN

WARNING -- SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND  
METHODS INVOLVED/NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION.

E.O. 11652: XGDS. DECLASSIFICATION DATE IMPOSSIBLE TO  
DETERMINE.

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF NVA OFFENSIVE--SUMMARY FOR  
PERIOD ENDING NOON MARCH 31.

### 1. GENERAL

IN MR 1, THERE IS FIGHTING IN THE CITY OF DA NANG, AND THE CITY  
IS CONSIDERED LOST. THE AIRPORT IS STILL CLOSED TO ALL REFUGEE  
FLIGHTS;

CONFUSION REIGNS AT THE PORT. LTG TRUONG HAS ARRIVED BY SHIP AT  
CAM RANH. IN MR 2, THE SITUATION HAS DETERIORATED OVER THE

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WEEK-END, ALTHOUGH TUYEN DUC SECTOR FORCES REOCCUPIED DI LINH

DISTRICT TOWN IN LAM DONG. HOWEVER, FURTHER NORTH THE 22D DIVISION IS ENGAGED WITH THE 3D NVA DIVISION IN HEAVY FIGHTING NEAR QUI NHON, AND GVN TROOP MORALE IS DWINDLING. ELEMENTS OF THE 3D AIRBORNE BRIGADE HAVE BEEN PENETRATED BY NVA FORCES, AND HAVE TAKEN APPARENTLY HEAVY LOSSES. WE HAVE REPORTS THAT GENERAL PHU AND SENIOR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF ARE SUFFERING FROM MORALE PROBLEMS. IT WAS A QUIET WEEK-END IN MR 3. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTION WAS A 500ROUND ABF AND SUBSEQUENT GROUND ATTACK DIRECTED AGAINST CHON THANH. THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN VUNG TAU HAS INCREASED CONSIDERABLY IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. IN MR 4 ACTIVITY CONTINUED LIGHT WITH NO MAJOR INCIDENTS.

2. MR 1.

DA NANG HAS BEEN LOST. GENERAL TRUONG, MR 1 COMMANDER, HAS ARRIVED IN CAM RANH. TRUONG IS SUFFERING FROM A STOMACH AILMENT, AND IS DEPRESSED BECAUSE OF THE RAPID CHANGE OF EVENTS IN MR 1.

3. MR 2

THE SITUATION IN MR 2 HAS DETERIORATED IN THE PAST 48 HOURS. IN BINH DINH, THE 22D DIVISION IS ENGAGED IN HEAVY FIGHTING WITH THE 3D NVA DIVISION NEAR QUI NHON CITY. THE MORALE OF THESE TROOPS, WHO HAVE BEEN IN COMBAT FOR 25 DAYS, IS NOT GOOD, AND SENIOR MR 2 OFFICERS ARE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANCES OF QUI NHON.

ELEMENTS OF THE 3D AIRBORNE BRIGADE DEFENDING THE DAU CAU PASS HAVE BEEN PENETRATED BY WHAT IS THOUGHT TO BE ELEMENTS OF THE 320TH NVA DIVISION. THE 5TH BN OF THE AIRBORNE HAS CONTACT WITH ONLY 20 PER CENT OF ITS PERSONNEL, AND THE 6YH BN WITH ONLY 60 PERCENT OF ITS PERSONNEL. THE AIRBORNE UNITS ARE ATTEMPTING TO LEAPFROG OUT OF THE AREA AND RE-ESTABLISH DEFENSIVE POSITIONS.

REGIONAL FORCE BNS FROM TUYEN DUC REOCCUPIED DI LINH DISTRICT TOWN IN LAM DONG MARCH 29, THE FIRST DISTRICT TOWN TO BE REOCCUPIED SINCE THE CURRENT OFFENSIVE BEGAN.

THE GVN HAS SUFFERED HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES IN MR 2 SINCE THE CURRENT OFFENSIVE BEGAN. THE MOST CRITICAL LOSSES INCLUDE ALL 12 175 MM GUNS IN THE REGION, ALL 54 M-48 TANKS, 36 OF THE 54 155 MM  
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HOWITZERS, AND 2,813 OF THE 5,833 PRC-25 RADIOS. THERE ARE NO RADIO BATTERIES PRESENTLY IN MR 2.

MORALE AT MR 2 HEADQUARTERS IS VERY LOW. GENERAL PHU, MR 2 COMMANDER, HAS SUFFERED CONSIDERABLE DETERIORATION OF MORALE. HE PLACES THE BLAME FOR THE CURRENT PROBLEMS OF THE GVN DIRECTLY ON THE US. MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF ARE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE GVN'S ABILITY TO HOLD NHA TRANG.

3. MR 3.

MILITARY REGION 3 WAS QUIET OVER THE WEEK-END. A 500-ROUND ABF WAS DIRECTED AT THE DEFENDERS OF CHON THANH THE MORNING OF MARCH 31, FOLLOWED BY A GROUND ATTACK.

THE FLOW OF REFUGEES INTO VUNG TAU HAS INCREASED CONSIDERABLY IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. IT IS NOW ESTIMATED TO BE APPROXIMATELY 6,000 PER DAY, AND REFUGEES IN VUNG TAU CURRENTLY NUMBER 20,000 AS OPPOSED TO 3,000 SEVERAL DAYS AGO.

4. MR 4.

THERE WERE NO MAJOR INCIDENTS IN THE DELTA OVER THE WEEK-END WITH ACTIVITY REMAINING LIGHT.

5. ICCS.

FIFTY MEMBERS OF THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION DEPARTED VIET-NAM THIS WEEK-END, LEAVING A TOTAL OF ABOUT 100 INDODEL MEMBERS IN VIET-NAM.

WARNING NOTICE: SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED. NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <27 JUN 2003 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HIGHLIGHTS OF NVA OFFENSIVE--SUMMARY FOR PERIOD ENDING NOON MARCH 31.  
**TAGS:** MOPS, VS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006